

Message Text

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ORIGIN EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ADP-00 INT-08 EB-11 COME-00 SCI-06

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10

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AF/ N - WARREN CLARK (INFO)

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY VALLETTA

INFO AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

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E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: EIND, MT

SUBJECT: WESTINGHOUSE

REF: VALLETTA 615

1. WE PASSED MINTOFF' S QUESTIONS RE WESTINGHOUSE EQUIPMENT TO BRUCE MORRISON APRIL 2. MORRISON SAID FIRST QUESTION, CONCERNING POSSIBLE TECHNOLOGICAL ADVANCE, WAS TOO VAGUE TO LEND ITSELF TO MEANINGFUL INFORMAL ANSWER. IN RESPONSE TO SECOND, MORRISON CONFIRMED THAT PLANT HAD BEEN TAILORED TO PRECISE LOCATION IN MALTA AND AGREED THIS MIGHT CAUSE PROBLEMS FOR POTENTIAL BUYER.

2. MORRISON ADDED, MOREOVER, THAT EVEN IF PROBLEMS RESOLVED TO LIBYANS' SATISFACTION, HE QUESTIONED FEASIBILITY OF RE- STARTING PROJECT AT THIS LATE DATE AND SAID WESTINGHOUSE NOT RPT NOT NOW FAVORABLY INCLINED TOWARD SALE OF
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MALTA PLANT. FYI: IN FACT, SOME COMPONENTS OF ORIGINAL PROJECT HAVE ALREADY BEEN DISPOSED OF PIECEMEAL. ON ADVICE OF ATTORNEYS, WESTINGHOUSE HAS BEEN TRYING, WITH SOME SUCCESS, TO CUT LOSSES BY USING AND SELLING FOR SCRAP OR OTHERWISE MUCH OF EQUIPMENT IN US WHICH HAD BEEN EARMARKED FOR MALTA. AS RESULT, MORRISON SAID, PROJECT WOULD NOW HAVE TO START ALMOST FROM SCRATCH. END FYI. MORRISON SAID WESTINGHOUSE HAS HAD NO FEELERS FROM LIBYANS RE POSSIBLE PURCHASE, ALTHOUGH COMPANY IS IN TOUCH WITH LARG ON OTHER MATTERS.

3. MORRISON VOLUNTEERED THOUGHT THAT GOM MAY BE TRYING TO DELAY LEGAL ACTION UNTIL JULY WHEN, ACCORDING TO POSSIBLE INTERPRETATION OF MALTESE LAW, TWO- YEAR STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS WOULD EXPIRE. THIS VIEW NOT HELD BY WESTINGHOUSE MALTESE LAWYERS, BUT IN ANY CASE, COMPANY PLANS TO BE IN COURT BY MAY. RUSH

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*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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